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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Tomohito Shida

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EXAMINER

ALVAREZ, RAQUEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3688

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/748,374	SHIDA, TOMOHITO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Raquel Alvarez	3688	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 5-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 11/13/2008.
2. Claims 2-3, 5-8 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (5,937,391 hereinafter Ikeda) in view of Walker et al. (6,338,049 hereinafter Walker).

With respect to claims 2, 5-8, Ikeda teaches a recording medium storing a program for a point-service system that can be accessed by a customer using a terminal device via a network (Abstract).

receiving from the customer, a request for an arbitrary number of reserved points from among a number of points accumulated in any one of a plurality of point-use facilities issuing points to the customer (Figure 6);

Recording the requested arbitrary number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points based upon the request for the arbitrary number of reserved points (Figure 16);

transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the entered requested arbitrary number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points to the

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terminal device for issuance of the point use ticket the requested arbitrary number of reserved points (points redeeming unit 3);

determining a point use ticket is usable by verifying a reference request for the arbitrary number of reserved points from a point usable facility transmitting the number of reserved points based upon the status of the reserved points the verifying being conducted by comparing the number of reserved points to the point use ticket to be referred with the recorded requested arbitrary number of reserved points and the verifying including verifying a use status of the number of reserved points (see figures 8-9, 14,16).

With respect to generating recognition codes and providing point use ticket identifying the generated recognition code. Walker teaches user generated traveler's checks (i.e. point use ticket) having serial a number (i.e. generated recognition code). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included in the system of Ikeda, the teachings of Walker of generating recognition codes and providing point use ticket identifying the generated recognition code because such a modification would allow for bearer notes to include a recognition code or serial number in order to allow the merchants to verify the validity of the ticket (bearer's note or traveler's check) .

With respect to the newly amended feature of defining the point user ticket is such that can be used also by a person other than the customer in a way that allows the customer to select between a form in which the point use ticket comprising the recognition code is printed at a side of the customer and a from in which the point use

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comprising the recognition code is used as data in the plurality of point-usable facilities (i.e. the bearer note signature 118-1 determines who can use the check and it can be a person other than the customer who bought the check. The serial number 118-4 is used as data by the merchants in step 804 in order to verify the validity of the check). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included defining the point user ticket is such that can be used also by a person other than the customer in a way that allows the customer to select between a form in which the point use ticket comprising the recognition code is printed at a side of the customer and a from in which the point use comprising the recognition code is used as data in the plurality of point-usable facilities because it would allow multiple users to use the ticket and allow the merchants to verify the validity of the recognition code (serial number) before accepting the ticket.

With respect to the newly amended feature of the recording portion rewriting, when the point use ticket to be referred is determined usable as a result of the verifying, the use status recorded in the use management database and corresponding to the recognition code of the point use ticket to be referred such that the use status thus rewritten indicates that the point use ticket to be referred is used (i.e. the serial number is used by merchant 106 to verify the validity of the check before accepting it (step 804) and then that particular serial number is updated to show that the check has been cashed or not cashed)(step 816). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included recording portion rewriting, when the point use ticket to be referred is determined usable as a result of the

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verifying, the use status recorded in the use management database and corresponding to the recognition code of the point use ticket to be referred such that the use status thus rewritten indicates that the point use ticket to be referred is used in order to avoid that same recognition code (serial number) from being used more than once.

With respect to the newly amended feature of the form in which the point use ticket is printed at the side of the customer being configured such that printing is selectable between one and a plurality of the point use tickets comprising an identical recognition code (i.e. Walker teaches validating the serial number). The combination of Ikeda and Walker is silent as to allowing the customer to print one or more check with the same code. Official Notice is taken that allowing customers to multiple print papers and documents is well known in order to provide the customer with copies of documents and the like. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included the point use ticket is printed at the side of the customer being configured such that printing is selectable between one and a plurality of the point use tickets comprising an identical recognition code in order to obtain the above mentioned advantage.

With respect to claim 3 Walker teaches a check cancellation based upon the check serial number (col. 10, lines 27+). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included in the system of Ikeda for the reserved points to be canceled corresponding to the recognition code

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upon request in order to invalidate the check serial number when the user changes his mind or wants to make changes.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-3 and 5-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new interpretation of the references based upon Applicant's amendments. See above rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new interpretation of the references presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Point of contact

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (571)272-6715. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James w. Myhre can be reached on (571)272-6722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Raquel Alvarez/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3688

Raquel Alvarez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3688

R.A.
2/13/2009

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